



## First Generation College Bound

*"Bridging the Home, Church, School and, Community for Success"*

February 13, 2024

Good Afternoon, Chairman Senator Brian J. Feldman Vice Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan and members of the Committee

My name is Joseph Fisher. I am the CEO and Founder of First Generation College Bound. I also serve as the chair of the Maryland Alliance for College Affordability and Equity.

I am pleased to provide testimony on behalf of the Maryland Alliance for College Affordability and Equity. I am testifying in support of SB517 The Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program to be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission with amendments. This is due to MHEC's knowledge and experience of need-based financial aid for low-income students supporting them to attend an affordable college. The Maryland State Department of Education has done well at administering the program. However, it does not have the need base financial knowledge and experience in the area of financial aid to address the needs and concerns of NGS Programs. As a result since year 1 of the program, MSDE has reached out to MHEC for support. I find this understandable as MSDE's focus is on students being college and career-ready. However, for those students who are eligible for need-based financial aid, completing the process with support from the NGS program is most valuable. The MHEC funds awarded will enable the students to attend a Maryland best fit and affordable college.

Recognizing the importance of MHEC administering the grant, NGS programs recognize and appreciate the partnering with the schools they are providing service. As a result, MHEC must have a full-time person not only administering and managing the NGS Program but also collaborating with MSDE for success.

During my years of promoting college affordability to low-income students, with the support of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, there was no doubt in my mind they could attend college and graduate with little to no debt. Due to the financial resources of the Maryland Higher Education Commission there is no excuse for any low-income student in Maryland to attend college if they desire or are made aware they can with NGS Program Support. (please find with this testimony FGCB's Bachelor's Degree data)

As I close, The Maryland Alliance is in favor of SB517 with amendments. I want to thank you for providing this space and time to advocate for the low-income students and parents whom the Alliance represents.

Joseph Fisher  
CEO and Founder

8101 Sandy Spring Road, Suite 230, Laurel, Maryland 20707  
Phone: 301-490-0911 Toll Free Fax: 866-811-0130  
[www.fgcb.org](http://www.fgcb.org)

## Alumni School Rankings - Bachelor's

As of 2022-11-12 16:01:40 Eastern Standard Time/EST • Generated by Debra Myers

Rank	School ↓	Record Count
1	Bowie State University	128
2	University of Maryland-College Park	111
3	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	81
4	Towson University	66
5	Morgan State University	59
6	Frostburg State University	31
7	University of Maryland-Baltimore County	27
8	Salisbury University	22
9	Coppin State University	22
10	McDaniel College	19
11	University of Maryland-Global Campus	14
12	University of Maryland-Baltimore	8
13	Stevenson University	8
14	Howard University	8
15	Trinity Washington University	7
16	St Mary's College of Maryland	7
17	North Carolina A & T State University	7
18	George Mason University	7
19	Virginia State University	6
20	Hood College	6
21	Hampton University	6
22	George Washington University	6
23	Notre Dame of Maryland University	5
24	Clark Atlanta University	5
25	Bennett College for Women	5
26	Temple University	4
27	Shaw University	4
28	Saint Augustines College	4
29	Norfolk State University	4
30	Loyola University Maryland	4
31	Georgetown University	4
32	Delaware State University	4
33	Capitol Technology University	4
34	Washington Adventist University	3
35	Virginia Union University	3
36	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	3
37	Mount St Mary's University	3

38	Morehouse College	3
39	Livingstone College	3
40	Johnson & Wales University-Online	3
41	Georgia State University	3
42	Full Sail University	3
43	Catholic University of America	3
44	American University	3
45	Unknown	3
46	Williams College	2
47	Washington College	2
48	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	2
49	University of Phoenix-Online Campus	2
50	University of Phoenix-Maryland Campus	2
51	University of Baltimore	2
52	Trinity University	2
53	Strayer University-District of Columbia	2
54	Shenandoah University	2
55	Saint Augustine College	2
56	Rochester Institute of Technology	2
57	Randolph-Macon College	2
58	North Carolina Wesleyan College	2
59	North Carolina Central University	2
60	Marshall University	2
61	Liberty University	2
62	Grinnell College	2
63	Goucher College	2
64	Duquesne University	2
65	Drexel University	2
66	DeVry University-Maryland	2
67	Columbia University in the City of New York	2
68	Chowan University	2
69	Chamberlain College of Nursing-Virginia	2
70	Youngstown State University	1
71	Wilberforce University	1
72	West Virginia University	1
73	Wayland Baptist University	1
74	Warren Wilson College	1
75	Waldorf College	1
76	Valley Forge Christian College	1
77	University of Virginia-Main Campus	1
78	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	1
79	University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg	1
80	University of Notre Dame	1
81	University of Miami	1

82	University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	1
83	University of Massachusetts Amherst	1
84	University of Mary Washington	1
85	University of Houston	1
86	University of Akron Main Campus	1
87	The University of the Arts	1
88	The University of Texas at Dallas	1
89	The College of Saint Rose	1
90	Texas A & M University-College Station	1
91	Swarthmore College	1
92	Strayer University-Maryland	1
93	St John's University-New York	1
94	Stanford University	1
95	South Carolina State University	1
96	Sojourner-Douglass College	1
97	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	1
98	Sewanee-The University of the South	1
99	Savannah College of Art and Design	1
100	Saint Leo University	1
101	Saint Johns University	1
102	Rutgers University-Camden	1
103	Regent University	1
104	Queens University of Charlotte	1
105	Purdue University - Global	1
106	Polytechnic Institute of New York University	1
107	Pepperdine University	1
108	Pace University-New York	1
109	Oakwood University	1
110	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	1
111	New York University	1
112	Mount Holyoke College	1
113	Middlebury College	1
114	Marymount University	1
115	Manhattan College	1
116	Lycoming College	1
117	Loyola University-Chicago	1
118	Lincoln University of Pennsylvania	1
119	Lincoln University of Missouri	1
120	Lincoln University of California	1
121	Lafayette College	1
122	Kettering College of Medical Arts	1
123	Kentucky State University	1
124	Johnson & Wales University-Providence	1
125	Johns Hopkins University	1

126	James Madison University	1
127	Ithaca College	1
128	Huston-Tillotson University	1
129	Grand Valley State University	1
130	Grand Canyon University	1
131	Georgia Gwinnett College	1
132	Francis Marion University	1
133	Fordham University	1
134	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	1
135	Fisk University	1
136	Ferrum College	1
137	Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan Campus	1
138	Emory and Henry College	1
139	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide	1
140	Elon University	1
141	Edward Waters College	1
142	Eastern Mennonite University	1
143	East Carolina University	1
144	DePaul University	1
145	Davis & Elkins College	1
146	Davidson College	1
147	Concordia University-Portland	1
148	Collins College	1
149	College of William and Mary	1
150	Clayton State University	1
151	Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	1
152	Cedar Crest College	1
153	Carson-Newman College	1
154	California State University-Los Angeles	1
155	California State University-Dominguez Hills	1
156	Benedict College	1
157	Barton College	1
158	Averett University	1
159	Anderson University	1
160	Allen University	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>878</b>